



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

JUL 06 2010

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:
R-19J

The Honorable Carl Levin
United States Senator
524 Ludington Street, Suite LL103
Escanaba, Michigan 49829

Dear Senator Levin:

Thank you for your letter of June 9, 2010, regarding the concerns of the City of Marquette with the Woodland Road Transportation Plan.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's role in the review of the Woodland Road Transportation Plan was through this agency's federal oversight authority of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE) Inland Lakes and Streams Permitting Process. On March 17, 2010, EPA issued a letter to MDNRE consisting of a federal objection to permit issuance for wetland and stream impacts associated with construction of the preferred route proposed by Woodland Road, LLC.

On May 7, 2010, Woodland Road, LLC withdrew the application for a MDNRE permit, which ended EPA's formal review. In the event that a new application is submitted, EPA is committed to reviewing the project within the purview of our oversight of MDNRE's Inland Lakes and Streams Permitting Process.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Ronna Beckman, the Region 5 Congressional Liaison, at 312-886-3000.

Sincerely,

Susan Hedman
Regional Administrator

R-19J

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United States Senator
524 Ludington Street, Suite LL103
Escanaba, Michigan 49829

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Sincerely,

Susan Hedman
Regional Administrator

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CARL LEVIN
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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2202

June 9, 2010

Ms. Joyce K. Frank, Acting Associate Administrator for Congressional
and Intergovernmental Relations
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 3426 ARN
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. Frank:

I am writing on behalf of Mr. Dennis Liimatta, Supervisor, of Marquette Charter Township and Mr. John Kivela, Mayor, of the City of Marquette regarding their concerns with the Woodland Road Transportation Plan.

Enclosed is their correspondence. Any assistance and information you could provide Supervisor Liimatta and Mayor Kivela regarding this matter would be appreciated.

Please inform me of your findings by directing your response to my Escanaba office listed below.

Sincerely,


Carl Levin

CL/er
Enclosure

STATE OFFICES

DETROIT
477 MICHIGAN AVENUE
SUITE 1800
DETROIT, MI 48226
(313) 226-8020

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524 LUDINGTON STREET
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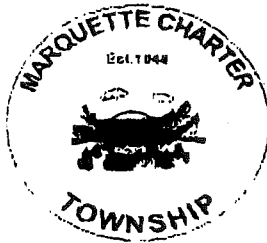
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815 NORTH WASHINGTON
SUITE 408
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(989) 764-2484

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207 GRANDVIEW PARKWAY
SUITE 104
TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49684
(231) 947-0560

WARREN
30600 VAN DYKE
SUITE 200
WARREN, MI 48093
(586) 673-8148



April 26, 2010

The Honorable Carl Levin
269 Russell Office Building
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510-2202

RE: Woodland Road, Marquette County, Michigan

Dear Senator Levin:

The City of Marquette and Marquette Township encourage you to please proceed with the original Woodland Road Transportation Plan in Marquette County, Michigan. Both of our municipalities have concurred not only with the need for the development of this road in its original proposed location, but we also stand united that the proposed rerouting of the road through the City and Township is not acceptable.

For the past five years, our residents have voiced strong objections to the trucks running through our communities hauling fly ash, timber and limestone. Citizens' concerns focus on the negative impact these trucks have in terms of air quality, noise and safety. Please understand that the proposed rerouting of this truck traffic along County Road 550 or CR 510 to U.S. Highway 41 would bring these trucks in front of scores of homes in our communities. This is not merely a business corridor: hard-working individuals live in these houses; children play around these homes. Please take their personal safety into serious consideration.

The proposed Woodland Road would serve multiple purposes; it would be an ideal route for logging and ore trucks. Timber harvesting in Big Bay plays an important economic role in the region and would directly benefit from having a shorter, safer route through western Marquette County, where there are fewer homes and lives that would be impacted.

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Letter to Senator Levin

April 26, 2010

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The use of CR 510 or CR 550 to connect to U.S. 41 would bring these trucks through the most heavily-traveled section of highway in the Upper Peninsula, according to the Michigan Department of Transportation. This stretch of highway already incurs some of the greatest number of accidents in the region; by routing trucks filled with millions of tons of ore through this corridor will only add to the congestion and the number of vehicle crashes.

We understand that one of the concerns on the EPA and DNRE involves the 24 streams that would be crossed as part of the Woodland Road project; however, CR 510 crosses even more: 29 streams.

To be good stewards of our environment, we all need to look at the "big picture", and the longer routes on either of these county roads would only increase greenhouse gas emissions in areas of dense residential development, education institutions (including Northern Michigan University, North Star Academy and Lakeview School) and customers doing business at the growing commercial establishments along these routes.

Please take into account the safety of our citizens, the traffic dangers and the increased greenhouse gas emissions that would be involved when you look at sending this traffic through our communities. Woodland Road offers a safer, more stable environmental alternative to not only the mining industries, but the timber industry as well. Please make a sound decision and proceed with the establishment of Woodland Road.

Sincerely,



John P. Kivela, Mayor
City of Marquette

Sincerely,



Dennis Liimatta, Supervisor
Marquette Township

City of Marquette
300 W. Baraga Avenue
Marquette, MI 49855
Phone: 906-225-8102 Fax: 906-228-0429